any company (irrespective of the commodity it manufactures) preferring an appeal is required to deposit with the adjudicating authority duty demanded and/or any penalty levied pending appeal. Howver, the appellate authrities also have the discretion to waive the condition of pre-deposit in part or full subject to such conditions as the appeallate authority may think fit so as to safeguard the interest of revenue.

Further, various measure have been tkaen to expedite finalisation of the cases at the stage of adjudication and appeal before the Tribunal and Courts. These include appointment of common adjudicators to exclusively deal with some of the cases whcih are complex, appointment of senior counsels of represent the Department and amendment to the Central Excises & Salt Act 1944 to provide for interest to be charged on delayed payment of duty.

News-Item Regarding India in Debt Trap

3560. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in the Hindustrn Times dated 16th August, 1996, regarding India in debt trap by the end of this deecade;

(b) if so, whether Government will have to borrow more and more to meet its interest obligations;

(c) whether Government have examined the contents of the book written by Secretary of Planning Commission and former Secretary of Govememt of India on India's Economic Policy for the 21st Century;

(d) if so, steps taken by Government to avoid falling in debt trap; and

(e) the total interest Government will have to pay for earlier borrowings uptill now?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government keeps the Debt position under constant reivew and is seized of the relevant issues including those reported to have been mentioned in the back. Government would endeavour to restrict the fiscal deficit additional borrowings) in 1996-97 (BE) to 5% of GDP. Govememnt is also committed to reduce it furhter so as to reduce the debt burden.

(e) The total interest payments in 1996-97 (BE) are estimated at Rs. 60000 crore.

Countersign for non-listed Medicines in Ayurvedic Dispensaries

3561. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI MOHINDRA SINGH KALYAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued orders to the effect that the non-listed medicines in CGHS Ayurvedic dispan-saries will be purchased or issued only after the Countersign by Adviser (Ayurveda & Siddha)/Dcputy Adviser (Ay-urveda)Medical Superintendent of CGHS Ayurvedic Hospital;

(b) whether this type of formality is not necessary in the case of listed medicines;

(c) whether Government propose to order for countersign in the case of both type of medicines or alternatively adopt the similar type of process;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if so, by when these instructions/ orders will be issued to the CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Yes Sir. These